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**Sent:** 8/29/2017 11:40:08 PM  
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**Subject:** EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Tropical Storm Harvey - UPDATE #9

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## **EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Tropical Storm Harvey - UPDATE #9**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Report as of August 29, 2017 at 1945 EDT**

**Overview:** Tropical Storm Harvey is approximately 75 miles south-southeast of Cameron, LA, and is moving north-northeast at 6 mph. It is projected to maintain this path through August 30. Harvey is expected to produce additional rainfall accumulations of 6 to 12 inches through Friday over parts of the upper Texas coast into southwestern Louisiana. Isolated storm totals may reach 50 inches over the upper Texas coast, including the Houston/Galveston metropolitan area. These rains are currently producing catastrophic and life-threatening flooding over large portions of southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana. Elsewhere, Harvey is expected to produce additional rainfall amounts of 5 to 10 inches across portions of southern Louisiana into coastal Mississippi, and Alabama. Rainfall associated with Harvey will spread north by mid to late week, with rainfall amounts of 4 to 8 inches spreading into portions of Arkansas and the Tennessee Valley.

Major to record river flooding is expected, particularly for the Neches, Trinity, Houston Metro, San Bernard, Colorado and Navidad Basins. Other rivers on which major to record flooding is forecast include the Brazos and San Antonio Rivers. Harvey will produce a Storm Surge of 1 to 3 feet at high tide from San Luis Pass to Morgan City, including Galveston Bay.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has activated all Emergency Support Function (ESF) at FEMA Region 6 RRCC and the NRCC. On August 25, the President approved an Expedited Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4332-DR-TX) for the state of Texas as a result of Tropical Storm Harvey. There are currently five parishes in Louisiana that have Presidential Disaster Declaration, and additional parish declarations are expected. Major disaster declarations are effective in 19 counties in Texas.

**EPA Actions:**

EPA Region 6:

The Region 6 Emergency Operations Center is currently activated and is working under a limited FEMA Disaster Declaration Mission Assignment (MA). In addition, EPA has received an MA to assist the State of Texas with drinking water, wastewater and Hazmat recovery operations.

## **Texas**

EPA Region 6 deployed two On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) on Friday (August 25) in support of the State through this ESF. One OSC deployed to the FEMA Regional Response Center in Denton, Texas and the second OSC to the State of Texas Operations Center in Austin, Texas.

EPA Region 6 is monitoring a situation at the Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas. The facility is without power and has lost their backup power source for one of the containers. The contents of that container are approaching auto-ignition temperatures and could potentially detonate. The area has been evacuated due to flooding, and local first responders are in the area conducting search and rescue. EPA Region 6 is working with the Department of Homeland Security to develop plume modeling to provide to local responders.

Four EPA Region 6 Incident Management Team members are mobilizing to Corpus Christi today to establish unified command. The team will rendezvous with TCEQ and the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) counterparts as well as US Coast Guard personnel to form a unified command.

Members from the National Incident Management Assistance Team (N-IMAT) arrived in Dallas on August 29, and are integrated into the Incident Management Team structure.

An EPA Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) vehicle is enroute from North Carolina to assist with air monitoring in the impacted areas throughout Texas and is scheduled to arrive by September 1. Colorado PHILIS mobile units will be deploying to Corpus Christi. The ASPECT team is tentatively scheduled to fly, August 30.

## **Louisiana**

On Monday, August 28, 2017, EPA participated in an ESF-10 call with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). LDEQ Southwest Regional office reported localized flooding particularly around Cameron Parish and the Lake Charles/ Sulphur area. LDEQ reports that there are no boil water notices currently in the state. LDEQ reports it has made contact with radiation licensees and reports all sources have been accounted.

## **Industrial Sources**

EPA is working with TCEQ to contact industrial sources within the impacted area to determine their operational status and what support can be provided with the monitoring of the start-up of industrial sources along the coast of Texas. EPA is mobilizing additional personnel to Austin to support the state in this effort.

On August 29, TCEQ reported that Valero's Corpus Christi refinery will begin start-up operations over the next four to six days (approximately September 3). During this start-up procedure they will be running at 60% capacity.

## **Surface Water Quality Monitoring**

EPA has drafted an incident-specific surface and flood water sampling plan to address public health concerns regarding possible contaminants found in storm water.

## **Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments**

EPA Region 6 is preparing to mobilize teams to assist with drinking water and waste water field assessments as soon as field conditions allow. EPA is supporting TCEQ in contacting drinking water and waste water systems. EPA Region 6 deployed 10 personnel to assist TCEQ's Drinking

Water and Waste Water Phone Bank located in Austin, Texas.

Additional EPA drinking water and waste water staff will be deployed on a case-by-case basis to offer technical assistance necessary to restore services as quickly as possible. These teams will physically visit drinking water and waste water systems to determine functionality and provide technical assistance.

Conditions are being monitored at the Houston Northeast Water Purification Plant. The plant is experiencing flood conditions which may overtop the facility. As of 1000 EDT, the plant was operating and maintaining sufficient pressure to keep the system charged and deliver water. They will have pumps/hoses and more diesel delivered this morning. No corrective action can be taken should the facility overtop. The facility would have to go offline until the flood waters recede to the point to allow for re-energizing. This facility is the largest water treatment plant in the City of Houston. George Bush International Airport is dependent upon this facility. The State and FEMA are aware of the situation and will support and provided assets as needed to support the facility.

### **EPA Laboratory/ Analytical Services**

The Houston laboratory is reporting that they will be closed until September 5. The laboratory and office building are not damaged. EPA has back up capabilities for laboratory services should the Houston facility remain closed.

### **Data Management**

Region 6 activated the National Data team to provide support data management activities in Corpus Christi.

### **Communications**

EPA is fully integrated into the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA communication structure and management, and participates in the daily National Incident Communication Conference Line (NICCL) call. EPA has initiated its Crisis Communication Plan to ensure rapid response to providing coordinated, accurate, up-to-date information regarding its field activities. EPA Public Information Office will be established in Dallas with forward field components as needed to support the HQ Office of Public Affairs.

### **Refineries/Fuel Waivers**

The EPA received and approved a fuel waiver request from Louisiana to waive low Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) fuel for Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge Ozone Nonattainment Area), Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Orleans, Point Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, and St. Mary Parishes.

On August 29, EPA approved an additional fuel waiver request from the State of Texas regarding the use of Red Dyed 15ppm Non-Road Diesel Locomotive and Marine Fuel.

EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM):

The HQ EOC activated at 0900 on Monday, August 28 and is at Level 1 operations. The HQ EOC is coordinating on several levels with Region 6 and other Federal Agencies. The HQ EOC has deployed personnel to the FEMA NRCC to staff the ESF #10 Watch.

**Media Interest: High**

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

[https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-harvey/harvey-already-landmark-event-still-going-strong-threatens-round-two-n796976?cid=par-nbc\\_20170829](https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-harvey/harvey-already-landmark-event-still-going-strong-threatens-round-two-n796976?cid=par-nbc_20170829)

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/08/29/harvey-floodwaters-overflow-houston-reservoir-separate-levee-breach-reported.html>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/08/29/harvey-takes-aim-at-louisiana-as-trump-plans-to-survey-stricken-texas/?hpid=hp\\_hp-banner-main\\_harvey-645%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\\_term=.a47269a24286](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/08/29/harvey-takes-aim-at-louisiana-as-trump-plans-to-survey-stricken-texas/?hpid=hp_hp-banner-main_harvey-645%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.a47269a24286)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/29/us/hurricane-harvey-storm-flooding.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=span-abc-region&region=span-abc-region&WT.nav=span-abc-region>

**Note: The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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